

BASEBALL



Al Michaels and Curt Gowdy



Tony Kubek

WORLD SERIES

Curt: The American League Champs, the Oakland A's versus the National League Champs, the Cincinnati Reds. Today's game is brought to you by your Dodge dealer who has the big Dodge on display now, and by Gillette, makers of the "Dry Look." "The Wet Head Is Dead; Long Live the Dry Look."

Hi, everybody. Curt Gowdy of NBC Sports. Welcome to the 1972 World Series. So many fans have thought the playoffs were so tense, so thrilling. Will the World Series be an anticlimax? If you were here the last two days, talked to both teams, felt

the mood of the city, you would know that the World Series can never be an anticlimax.

We're going to have an interesting World Series. The only thing I can see in common between Oakland and Cincinnati is they each have enough talented players to win their league championship. Otherwise, they have contrasting styles. The A's look different. They have colorful uniforms, white shoes, shaggy hair, flowing mustaches, beards—they're the mod gang. Cincinnati demands their players clean shaven, short hair, the business-like approach and look on the field.

The way the clubs are run is different. The Oakland A's have a maverick owner in Charlie Finley. A self-made man who's won an American League Championship. As he says, he's his own front office and he is his own general manager. While Cincinnati has astute Bob Hauser as their General Manager, a large front office staff.

We have 35 players in this World Series game playing their first series. It's always a dream, of course, for a ball player. Cincinnati is favored, but the A's have a very strong pitching staff, and I think you're really going to enjoy it.

Speaking of that first world series, working with me here is the voice of the Cincinnati Reds, Al Michaels, who in just two years has captured an intense loyal following with his brilliant work broadcasting the Cincinnati games. And Al Michaels, welcome to this first World Series. A real pleasure to be working with Al.

Al: Thank you, Curt. A great thrill to be working with you here today. Right now let's take a look at the home of the Cincinnati Reds, Riverfront Stadium. The park was finished on June 30th, 1970—the Reds against the Atlanta Braves. It's the second time the World Series has been held here. The dimensions down the line, standard as far as the new parks go, it's 330 down the left field line. The yellow stripe runs across the top of the wall all the way around, and there's no difficulty telling when a home run is hit because there's some room between the wall and where the stands start.

Out in the left center field alley, it's 375; 400 at straight away center here in Cincinnati. This is a circular park, fully enclosed so the wind is not that much of a factor—but out in right center the balls seem to travel more than they do at any other point in this park. This is where Bench hit his playoff home run. It's where Tony Perez hits a lot of his home runs. Down the right field line, same

dimensions as to left, 330 feet. This is an all-artificial turf surface. It's the first one of its kind in the majors. Philadelphia and San Francisco just since copied it. You won't see any bad bounces on the Astro-Turf here. The only bad bounces on balls perhaps hit through the sliding boxes at first, second, and third. Seating capacity, 51,000. Standing room only today. We should see about 54,000, probably the largest crowd in Cincinnati baseball history.

Curt: Alright, Al, and the third member of our team, a regular on our Game of the Week telecast on Saturdays and Monday nights. He'll be here roving and also helping us to analyze the World Series—Mr. Tony Kubeck.

Tony: Thank you, Curt. We'll be down on the field.

Curt: The honor of throwing out the first pitch to open the World Series goes to the Commissioner of Baseball, Mr. Bowie Kuhn. And his toss is going to Johnny Bench. That's Mrs. Kuhn on the Commissioner's right. Now they'll repeat again. So the ceremonious first pitch is over. The Reds' players are going to be introduced, as is the regular season's custom, as one by one they come out and take their positions. Led by the catcher, Bench; quickly, the first baseman, Perez; Borbon going to second; Concepcion going to short; Menke to third; out to left field goes Pete Rose; Bobby Tolan to center field; Cesar Geronimo to right field. And here's the starting pitcher, Gary Nolan for Cincinnati. Gary Nolan, a young veteran. The 19-year-old rookie, 1967. He was one of the outstanding pitchers in baseball. He had a sore arm in '68-'69. He's changed his style somewhat now. Instead of going with all hard stuff, he now has developed an outstanding slow curve, a change up, fast ball. He won 15 games this year, lost 5. He was the first 10 game winner this year in the National League; the first 11 game winner; and the first ball game winner. He had more troubles in the second half of the season than he did in the first. Tony, how about analyzing Mr. Nolan here for us?

Tony: You said it a moment ago, Curt. He has now become a finished pitcher. At one time he was pretty much of a hard thrower. Now he has gotten exceptional control of his breaking pitches, and he changes speed down there very well.

Curt: Nolan started the third game of the playoffs here on Monday against the Pirates, pitching six innings, allowing one run, four hits. He complained of a sore arm at the end of the season. He had an abscessed wisdom tooth that was removed, and they think that when that poison went out of his system, his arm starting feeling much better. But he is still doubtful, still to be a question mark in his manager's mind, Sparky Anderson.

Burt Campanaris has been allowed to play in the World Series after his bat-throwing incident in Oakland, but he has been suspended the first week of

the next baseball season, '73 season, without pay—which means he'll lose around \$3000. Campanaris hit .240 for the year; three out of seven in the playoffs until he was suspended. And the first pitch of the Series is a strike.

National League fans know, if you beat the Cardinals, keep Lou Brock off the bases. The same here with this club. And he hits the ball foul, strike two. Nothing and two to Campanaris. He stole 52 bases—most clubs throw strikes to him—they don't want to walk him. They play him straight away. The infield in a step or two. No balls, two strikes to Burt Campanaris. A ball, one and two. There's the defensive setup. It's dark here now; the lights are on. Weatherman said we would not have rain.

There's a drive into left field, and there goes your no-hitter in the first inning of the first World Series game. Now we'll have a confrontation between the top base stealer in the American League and the man that most consider the best throwing arm in baseball behind the plate, Johnny Bench. Joe Rudi, the most solid hitter on this A's team. He splatters the ball to all fields with power. He can hit behind the runner, get him over to third. He hit .305 for the regular year, 19 homers, 75 runs batted in; he hit .250 in the playoffs in the five games against the Tigers.

Throw to first to keep him close. They play Rudi two or three steps to right, and he hits a fly ball into center field. Tolan drifting back for it, has the grab; Campanaris scoots back to first. One down. Matty Alou, a valuable pickup for the A's. They obtained him from the Cardinals on August 27th, which made him eligible for the playoffs and the World Series. You have to join a club before September 1st. And he had some real game-winning hits that last month of the season. And Alou hit safely in every game in the five-game playoffs with the Tigers. Runner on first, Campanaris. One out and the first pitch is ball one.

Al: Curt, Alou's back on the kind of field he likes to play on, the artificial surface. He has that chop and run style of hitting and tries to play the third baseman—gets him in, then tries to lash it by them.

Curt: Fouled away. A ball and a strike. So far, Campanaris has shown no signs of going. But he has a batter up there that can protect him. Alou is one of the hardest batters in baseball to strike out. And the ballplayers say he gets a piece of the ball. He'll hit it somewhere. One ball, one strike. Campanaris at first, one down. Here he goes. There's a fly ball out into short right. Backing up is Morgan. They have a double play! They get it, a double play! Campanaris is doubled up. No runs, one hit. Nobody left. . . .